

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, Room 267
March 20, 2024 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Ed Driggs (Charlotte), Michael Osborne (Cornelius), Nick Walsh (Huntersville), David Cohn (Indian Trail), Jamie Lein (Marvin), Leigh Altman (Mecklenburg County), John Higdon (Metropolitan Transit Commission) Fredrick Becker (Mineral Springs), Dale Dalton (Mint Hill), Lisa Qualls (Mooresville), Tony Lathrop (NCBOT-Division 10), Amelia Stinson-Wesley (Pineville), Brad Richardson (Stallings), David Jones (Statesville), Teross Young (Troutman), Robert Murray (Waxhaw), Jim Bell (Weddington), David Boyce (Wesley Chapel)

Non-Voting Members Attending:

Jim Walker (NC Turnpike Authority), Mark Tilley (Union County Land Use Board)

1. Call to Order

Chair Lisa Qualls called the March 2024 CRTPO Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Summary:

Chair Qualls asked if any changes to the agenda were necessary. No changes were identified.

Motion:

Ed Driggs made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the agenda was adopted by acclamation.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Mr. Burke read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. No conflicts of interest were identified.

5. Consent Agenda

Summary:

Chair Qualls requested action on the following two consent agenda items:

- a) February 21, 2024 CRTPO Board Meeting Minutes
- b) FY 2024 CRTPO Self Certification

Motion:

Mr. Driggs made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Higdon seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

6. CRTPO FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program: Annual Budget

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

The presentation's purpose was to obtain the Board's adoption of the FY 2025 UPWP. The final draft of the FY 2025 UPWP was reviewed with updated funding allocations. The allocation process is complete, and the document has been prepared. Recommended allocations by task code were reviewed. Proposed FY 2025 UPWP funding allocations were reviewed for the following: local planning projects, FY 2024 UPWP project carryovers and anticipated key initiatives within FY 2025. At its March meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the FY 2025 UPWP.

Motion:

Mr. Driggs made a motion to adopt the FY 2025 UPWP. Mayor Becker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

7. CRTPO Strategic Plan Implementation Update

Presenter:

Brian Elgort

Summary:

Mr. Elgort provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

The presentation's purpose was to update the CRTPO Board on the implementation activities associated with the Strategic Plan following the adoption in November 2021. The CRTPO's Strategic Plan allows staff to link day-to-day planning activities to the CRTPO's mission, long-term vision, goals, and actionable strategies. The presentation highlighted recent accomplishments and outlined upcoming activities within each of the six goals identified within the Strategic Plan.

Michael Osborne asked if the implementation effort associated with Goal 6, Strategy B (Educate members on how to identify, pursue, and write grants) would be coordinated with Centralina Regional Council's (CRC) grant writing and education program. Mr. Elgort stated that staff has coordinated with CRC to ensure that the CRTPO's implementation of this strategy would augment and not duplicate the effort.

8. Beyond 77 Update

Presenter:

Paul Benton

Summary:

Mr. Benton provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

He began the presentation by providing an overview of the planning process to develop the Beyond 77 Study. Mr. Benton explained that the study began in 2019 and the final report was adopted by the CRTPO Board in January 2022. Next, he provided an update on the implementation tasks associated with the nine transit recommendations within the Beyond 77 study. There is a significant level of coordination with the implementation efforts associated with the CONNECT Beyond study.

Mr. Benton concluded the presentation by stating that an update on the Beyond 77 alternative funding report will be provided during the April 24 meeting and an update on the charter, structure, and administration of a coalition to guide the implementation efforts will be presented during the May 15 meeting.

Tony Lathrop stated that there overlapping recommendations within the Beyond 77 and CONNECT Beyond implementation efforts associated with seamless fare connectivity between transit agencies, and he asked about the progress of advancing this strategy throughout the region. Mr. Benton responded to explain that a

consultant has been retained to research best practices in regional transit fare integration and staff will be supported with guidance from the Transit Providers Work Group.

9. Transfer of Planning Responsibilities Memorandum of Agreement

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook provided information to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes.

He began the presentation by stating that the 2020 census resulted in instances where Census-designated urban areas associated with the region's metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) overlap various MPO boundaries. As per 23 CFR 450.312(h), MPOs must enter into a memorandum of agreement to transfer planning responsibilities for portions of an urban area located in another MPO's planning area. Mr. Cook explained that the CRTPO must enter into agreements with the Gaston Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO), Cabarrus-Rowan MPO (CRMPO), and the Rock Hill-Ft. Mill Area Transportation Study (RFATS).

He concluded the presentation by stating the agreements with CRMPO and GCLMPO are anticipated to be placed on the April 24 consent agenda, and ongoing tasks associated with transit funds will require the agreement with the RFATS to be placed on the May 15 consent agenda.

10. Project Spotlight: Mineral Springs Sidewalk Plan

Presenters:

Fredrick Becker and Will Snyder

Summary:

Information was provided to the Board via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. Mr. Snyder began the presentation by stating that the Town of Mineral Springs partnered with the CRTPO to develop its first sidewalk plan in the fall of 2023. He identified project subcommittee members from the Town, CRTPO, NCDOT, Union County and the development community.

Mayor Becker stated that the study's goals were to support current and future businesses with safe, walkable connections; build upon existing pedestrian facilities within the town central business district; and phase a pedestrian access solution in the short-term and complements NCDOT improvements to the intersection of NC 75 at Potter Road. Mr. Snyder provided an overview of the data inventory and subcommittee findings from a field visit.

Mayor Becker and Mr. Snyder summarized the plan recommendations focused on both town-wide pedestrian connectivity as well as enhanced walkability associated with anticipated intersection improvements at the intersection of NC 75 and Potter Road. Mayor Becker stated that the Mineral Springs Town Board will consider adopting the sidewalk plan during its April meeting. Mr. Snyder stated that the Town can consider submitting sidewalk segments for an upcoming CRTPO discretionary project call and/or NCDOT Prioritization 8.0 in 2026.

11. Upcoming Agenda Items

Presenter:

Neil Burke

Summary:

The April CRTPO Board meeting has been rescheduled from 4/17 to 4/24 due to the North Carolina Association of MPOs Conference.

The April 24 CRTPO Board agenda will include the following agenda items:

Action items:

- Transfer of Planning Responsibilities MOA

Information Reports:

- CRTPO Memorandum of Understanding Update
- 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update
- NCDOT Prioritization 7.0 (P7.0) Local Input Points Education Session
- Beyond 77 Alternative Transportation Funding Report Update
- CRTPO Project Spotlight: East-West Connector in Mooresville

Announcements:

15 of 45 CRTPO voting members have completed their SEI and RED filings. New CRTPO Board members must file their SEI and RED immediately to avoid financial penalty and returning CRTPO Board members must complete the SEI and RED filing requirements by April 15.

12. Board Member Comments

Presenter:

Lisa Qualls

Summary:

Chair Qualls provided a summary of the 2024 Joint Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO (GCLMPO)/CRTPO Roundtable, held in Belmont on February 29. She stated that this was the fifth annual joint meeting between the two MPOs – the intent of which is to foster coordination and collaboration between our organizations.

The topic of this year's meeting was a discussion around York County's Pennies for Progress program. Pennies for Progress is a capital sales tax program that requires residents to vote on specific transportation projects through a referendum every 7 years. For example, this funding mechanism provided the local funding for the expansion of I-77 throughout York County 20 years ago.

Attendees heard from York County's Pennies for Progress program manager, Patrick Hamilton, who presented on the history of program, the process for selecting projects, the details of the funding mechanism and the revenue generated. He also spoke to the projects that have been completed by York County since the first referendum was approved in 1997.

Chair Qualls stated that potential next steps that were supported by the participants include developing a shared legislative agenda and advocacy approach between our MPOs. She opened the floor for comments regarding the CRTPO Board's interest in partnering with GCLMPO on a shared legislative agenda on an alternative funding program.

Leigh Altman stated that she requested additional information on the Pennies for Progress program before determining her preference on partnering with GCLMPO on a shared legislative agenda. Chair Qualls stated that materials from the roundtable will be emailed following the meeting, and a presentation on the pennies for progress program could be requested for the CRTPO Board.

Brett Canipe provided an overview of additional information prepared by NCDOT and the I-77 Mobility Partners regarding the extended vehicle pilot program and safety data within the I-77 North Express lanes as a follow-up to CRTPO Board member questions during the February 21 meeting. Mr. Burke committed to emailing the information to the CRTPO Board following the meeting.

Amelia Stinson-Wesley stated that she appreciated the Mineral Springs Sidewalk Plan presentation and would like additional information regarding discretionary funding allocations throughout the CRTPO planning area. Mr. Burke responded that staff will provide this information to her.

Tony Lathrop provided an update on NCDOT's financial outlook by that the department has a good cash balance and is evaluating the ability to reduce the constraints that limit NCDOT to issue bonds to fund projects.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.